

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-17, 24-29, 34-60, 62-67 and 70-76 were pending prior to this response. Claims 25-27, 43-56, 57-60, 62-67, 70-76 have been allowed. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, 14-17, 24, 28, 29, and 34-42 have been rejected. Claims 11 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability.

The independent claim 1 has been amended by this response to include all the limitations of allowable claim 13 and of an intervening claim 9.

New independent claim 77 containing all limitations of allowable claim 11, its parent claim 1, and its intervening claims 9 and 10 has been added.

Claims 9, 13, 16, and 38-42 have been canceled by this response without prejudice to subsequent presentation of these claims in a continuing or in a related application.

While the Applicants believe that all of the previously pending claims are patentable, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application for the subject matter indicated allowable, the Applicants have re-written allowable claims 11 and 13 in independent form (as claims 77 and 1 respectively) and have canceled the rejected claims 38-42.

The Applicants submit that the amended independent claim 1 contains all limitations of allowable claim 13. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection for claim 1 and for its dependent claims 2-6, 10-15, 17, 24, 28-29, and 34-37.

The Applicants also submit that new claim 77 contains all limitations of allowable claim 11, and respectfully request allowance for this claim.

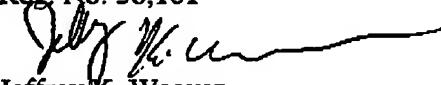
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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